What is claimed is:

1.   A device for speed control and distance control in motor vehicles, having a location
system (22) for locating objects in the near field of the vehicle, a controller (14) and a
selecting device (24) for selecting a located object as the target object for the distance control,
5   and having a slow-travel function that is usable only below a limit speed (V_lim), in which
the selecting device (24) classifies a broadened class of objects as possible obstacles,
characterized by a detecting device (26) for detecting a sequential traffic operation, in which
a preceding vehicle is followed as a target object, and a determining device (28) for
determining the limit speed (V_lim) as a function of the operating state detected by the
10   detecting device.

2.   The device as recited in Claim 1,
wherein the slow-travel function is a function which makes possible braking the vehicle to a
standstill.

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3.   The device as recited in Claim 1 or 2,
wherein, if the detecting device (26) does not detect a sequential traffic operation, the limit
speed (V_lim) in a clear-lane operation has a determined value (V0), whereas in a sequential
traffic operation it has a higher value (V1).

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4.   The device as recited in Claim 3,
wherein the determining device (28) is developed to change the limit speed (V_lim)
gradually, at a limited rate of change, from the determined value (V0) to the higher value
(V1) or vice versa, if the detecting device (26) detects a change in the operating state.

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5.   The device as recited in Claim 3 or 4,
wherein the limit speed (V_lim) is a monotonically falling function of the measured distance
(D) of the target object in the sequential traffic operation.

30   6.   The device as recited in Claim 5,
wherein, the limit speed (V_lim) becomes reduced to the value (V0) determined for clear-
lane operation, for large distances (D) of the target object.

7. The device as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the selecting device (24) is developed to evaluate even standing objects when the slow-travel function is activated.

8. The device as recited in Claim 7, wherein, in sequential traffic operation, to decide whether a standing object is a relevant obstacle, the selecting device (24) is developed for evaluating a relationship between the locating data of this standing object and the locating data of the followed target object.